



# GREEN FLEETS MONTHLY

JULY 2009

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## FLEET IMPACT

50 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions in the Puget Sound Region are from automobiles.

To minimize impact from vehicles, the City adopted a Green Fleet Action Plan, setting targets for adding green vehicles to the City's fleet and reducing the amount of petroleum fuel used by City vehicles.

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# CITY MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD 3 PERCENT FUEL REDUCTION GOAL

At the beginning of 2009, the City of Seattle set a goal of reducing fuel consumption in its fleets by 3 percent from 2008 levels.

In just the first half of 2009, the City has already reduced its overall fuel consumption by 2.7 percent, or 32,777 gallons, compared to the same period last year. The three departments' with the largest fuel reduction for the year are:

**City Light** -- 5 percent reduction (9,501 gallons)



Parks and Recreation – 3.8 percent reduction (5,169 gallons)

**Public Utilities** – 3.7 percent reduction (10,862 gallons)

The fuel reductions made by all departments have:

- Saved the City more than \$75,000
- Eliminated 476 tons of carbon dioxide emissions
- Eliminated the need to import more than 900 barrels of oil
- Eliminated the equivalent annual emissions from 80 passenger vehicles
- Eliminated the equivalent annual emissions from the use of electricity in 60 homes

### "LITTLE THINGS ADD UP" AT SEATTLE PUBLIC UTILITIES

Earlier this year, Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) launched an internal green fleets campaign to significantly reduce the amount of fuel SPU uses to provide services.

SPU's initial focus is on two areas: weight reduction and idling.



**Weight Reduction** - Carrying an extra 100 pounds can reduce your MPG by almost 2 percent

Idling - Reducing idle time by just 10 minutes per day could save about 25 gallons of fuel per year. Check out FFD's Idling FAQ for more information:

http://inweb/fleetsfacilities/ pdfs/IDLING%20FAQ.pdf "Little Things Add Up"

10,862 gallons

SPU leads all City departments in the total number of gallons of fuel they have reduced since the end of 2008. July 2009

#### CITY PURSUING STIMULUS FUNDING TO GREEN THE FLEET

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is providing \$300 million to the Department of Energy (DOE) to stimulate the purchase of advanced technology vehicles and fuels, and other technologies that will reduce diesel emissions.

The City of Seattle is pursuing this funding to apply it to pro-

jects that will reduce our dependence on imported oil, push markets for new and innovative technologies and develop the infrastructure to support the electrification of transportation.

Mayor Nickels signed a letter of commitment to be a project partner on a Puget Sound Clean Cities Coalition grant proposal. The City is seeking \$1.4 million to purchase:

- 15 medium-duty hybrid (electric/diesel) trucks with electric power take-off capability to run auxiliary equipment.
- Electric vehicle charging stations at City buildings and facilities.

Find out more at:

http://www.seattle.gov/
mayor/issues/recovery/
Environment.htm

### FUEL-SAVING TIPS

Action	Details
Leave early and don't rush	The enemy of efficient driving is finding yourself in a rush. Leave for your destination a little early so you don't feel pressured to accelerate faster, and brake later and harder when coming to a stop.
When combining errands, do the longest leg first	When combining multiple trips into one trip, go to your farthest destination first, and work your way back. This ensures the vehicle is warmed up as much as possible before subjecting it to multiple starts and stops.
Windows up at higher speeds	When traveling at highway speeds, drive with windows up to minimize aerodynamic drag. Use flow-through ventilation if possible.
Get settled and adjusted before starting up your vehicle	Don't start the vehicle until you're settled in your seat, have fastened your seat- belt, and made any adjustments to mirrors or seat. Wait for passengers to get set- tled and belted as well.
Automatic transmission: use OD (overdrive)	If your transmission has an "OD" button or position, leave it engaged to ensure the transmission will shift into its highest gear as soon as possible.
Avoid heater use until the engine has reached operating temperature	Engines run rich until a minimum temperature threshold is reached. Running the heater blower before that has happened will slightly increase warm-up time and increase fuel consumption.
Minimize air conditioning use	Air conditioning requires a lot of power and should be used sparingly. Driving at city speeds, you'll save fuel by using your flow through vents and opening windows.